

## **Health Advisory – Update: Smallpox Vaccine (Vaccinia) Adverse Event Recognition and Management for King County Health Care Providers, January 28, 2003**

On Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, health care providers were notified that the first stages of the National Smallpox Vaccination Plan (NSVP) had begun. Smallpox vaccinations are now underway at military facilities in our region and vaccination of public health and hospital smallpox teams are scheduled to begin in February. Health care providers should be prepared to recognize, evaluate, and manage patients with complications of smallpox vaccination or secondary transmission. Health care workers do not need to be vaccinated (or eligible for vaccine) in order to evaluate and care for persons experiencing complications of vaccination as long as appropriate infection control precautions are used (CDC: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/vaccination-program-qa.asp>).

- **Accordingly, all health care providers, particularly emergency department and primary care providers, should at this time review available training materials and become familiar with the recognition, evaluation, and management of adverse events of smallpox vaccination.**
- **Health care providers should know how to contact the infectious disease, dermatology, and immunology consultants in your practice setting for assistance in evaluating persons with potential complications of smallpox vaccination.**
- **King County health care providers are requested to review the following information and training materials:**
  - ✓ **Smallpox Vaccination and Adverse Reactions** (January 24, 2003 Vol. 52 / *MMWR* Dispatch) Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_dispatch.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_dispatch.html)
  - ✓ **Training for health care providers on smallpox vaccine adverse event recognition and management at the CDC web site:**  
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/smallpoxvaccine/reactions/default.htm>.
  - ✓ **Additional valuable information about smallpox is available at the CDC smallpox home page:** <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp>.
  - ✓ **The CDC internet-based smallpox “resource kit” for health care providers is available at:** <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/reference/resource-kit.asp>.
  - ✓ **Information and links to the above resources and others are available at the Public Health smallpox web site:** <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/bioterrorism/smallpox/>.

Health care providers who are evaluating vaccinees or contacts of vaccinees suspected to have complications of smallpox vaccination should contact Public Health’s Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Immunization Section at 206-296-4774.